System Management Software

353. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the fastest growing market for system management software in Asia;

(b) if so, whether Government have prepared any action plan to make India the largest market for system management software in the world; and

(c) the names of countries that have the largest markets for system management software?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Indian industry is fast adopting automation of their manufacturing and controlling process and thus is one of the fastest growing economies for system management software in Asia.

(b) The Department of IT, Government of India is taking various steps to promote IT sector. These include:

— Foreign investment approvals placed under the automatic route

— The depreciation on computers is allowed @ 60%

— Customs and Excise duties are further brought down

— Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) made attractive

— Special Economic Zones (SEZ) scheme introduced

— Norms for units under STP / EHTP / EOU / SEZ & Bio-Tech parks schemes eased

— Second hand capital goods are freely importable

— Donation of computers imported duty free by EOU/STP/EHTP units to Government Schools

— Tax holiday made available to Internet Service Providers and Broad Band Network providers

— Steps taken to induce more investment for R&D activities.

Effective legislation for Cyber Security and Cyber crimes in place

(c) All the developed nations especially USA, Europe, Canada, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand etc., are big markets in addition developing countries like China, India, South Africa are emerging markets.

Modernization of Postal Services

354. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas/places where Government propose to upgrade and modernize postal services; and

(b) the benefits/advantages likely to accrue therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The focus of the Tenth Five Year plan is on up-gradation and modernization of the vast physical network of the postal system to improve the efficiency of services and introduce new value added services. Accordingly, about 79% of the Tenth Plan outlay of Rs.1350 crore has been earmarked to upgrade and modernise postal services throughout the country. The thrust areas for up-gradation and modernization are (i) Computerisation of post offices, mail offices, speed post centres, foreign post offices, circle stamp depots, accounts and administrative office; (ii) modernization (improving ergonomics) of/and provision of equipments to post offices mail offices, speed post centres and mail motor depots; (iii) setting up of Automatic Mail Processing Centres; (iv) modernization/up-gradation premium products and (v) setting up of National Data Centre etc.

(b) Up-gradation and modernization of postal services is expected to result in; (i) Provision of efficient counter service to customers through single window system; (ii) Increased efficiency through computerized management of records, documents and accounts both in operative and administrative/accounts offices, enabling higher productivity and faster disposal of cases; (iii) Efficient mail management through automation of